

# ...and another thing

Amazing Planning & Development factoids that will keep you riveted!

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## Green → Sustainability

During the past few years you've undoubtedly heard the term "Green Building" or the expression "going green." If you're like a lot of people, you probably imagined a green building as a structure that was built using timber that wasn't quite ready or a building that was painted a hideous shade of green. In the past, one could "go green" by being exposed to gamma rays, like Physicist Bruce Banner.

Today green building and going green have become part of the vernacular in a different sense. Perhaps a more appropriate term is sustainable development. The starting point for sustainability varies by author and discipline. Some academics cite the Limits of Growth report which found "under the assumption of no major change in the present system, population and industrial growth will certainly stop within the next century, at the latest," while other researchers start at the Brundtland Commission Report. This report established one of the most widely accepted definitions of sustainability, "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The city of Las Vegas adopted a summarized version of the Brundtland definition in 2007 as part of the City Manager's policy. As with the academic history of sustainability, the city's history varies greatly depending on context. Field Operations, Planning & Development and many other departments have



"The Incredible Hulk"

incorporated sustainable principles for years, such as the city's Alternative Fuels Program and smart growth concepts. A more readily identifiable progression began with the adoption of the city's Strategic Priorities in 2005 with one "to create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of our community."

The city continued to adopt sustainable policies in 2006 including the Climate Protection Resolution, Green Building Resolution and Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance. In 2007 sustainability was included as one of the city's top three initiatives for fiscal year 07/08. The city has also formed an employee-based sustainability program, CELEBRATE, adopted the International Energy Conservation Code and held the Joint City Council & Planning Commission Workshop on Sustainability.



Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and Councilman Steven D. Ross at Timber Creek opening.

So now that you know more about the city's history to date on sustainability and its goals, here's a few of the tips and facts that will help you conserve energy and other resources, promote a cleaner environment and possibly even save a few bucks along the way. For a more comprehensive compilation of things you can do, consult "The Green Book" by Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen or visit [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/sustaininglasvegas](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/sustaininglasvegas).

On average, you create 4.5 pounds of trash every day. Over the course of your life, that will total over 600 times your adult weight in garbage.

If each person in every country in the world saved just one gallon from their daily shower, over the course of a year it would equal twice the amount of water drawn from the Great Lakes every day. The Great Lakes are the world's largest source of fresh water.

If everyone in America separated their recyclables from the trash and recycled them, waste sent to landfills could be decreased 75 percent. Currently it takes an area the size of Pennsylvania to dump all of our waste each year.

Keep your head out of the refrigerator and the door closed. The refrigerator is the biggest single consumer of electricity in the kitchen. Opening the refrigerator door accounts for between \$30 and \$60 of a typical family's electric bill each year. The amount of energy saved in a year by more efficient refrigerator usage could be enough to light every house in the United States for more than four and a half months straight.



Microwave ovens are between 3.5 and 4.8 times more energy efficient than traditional electric ovens. If everyone in North America cooked exclusively with a microwave for one year the energy saved would be the same as the continent of Africa consumes during that same time.

About 1.5 million tons of plastic are used in the bottling of 89 billion liters of drinking water each year. That's enough to make two water filters for every household on the planet. One billion people around the world lack access to clean drinking water. Please use tap water.

Using a pool cover can reduce water lost to evaporation by 90 percent. An average size pool with average wind and sun exposure loses approximately 1,000 gallons per month. That's enough to meet the drinking water needs of a family of four for nearly a year and a half.

You artists out there, avoid using crayons made from paraffin wax. It is derived from petroleum. Instead use crayons made from soybean oil, which have the added benefit of being non-toxic. America is the world's largest producer of soybeans which would allow us to produce well over one-trillion crayons without tapping oil supplies.



*Getting to work:*



Carpool with someone. If the average commuter carpooled every day, he or she would save 500 gallons of gasoline and 550 pounds of poisonous exhaust fumes each year. Commuters sharing a ride to work would be the equivalent of taking 67.5 million cars off the road.

Try public transportation. It will also cut down on traffic delays. If all Americans who take public transit to work drove alone, they would fill a nine-lane freeway from Boston to Los Angeles. People spend an average of 36 hours – nearly 5 full work days – in traffic delays each year.